

GENERAL NOTES

Conducted by M. H. Swenk

Adaptability in the Feeding Habits of the Woodcock.—While the Woodcock (*Philohela minor*) is known to eat seeds of various plants, its normal diet consists largely of earthworms and insects. On a recent field trip to New Jersey, State Game Warden Joseph Mathis and others gave incontrovertible evidence that the Woodcock, at least when hard pressed for food, will take grain. During the unusually cold freeze of February and early March, 1934, when snow covered the ground, the warden placed cracked corn on a cleared surface for Bob-whites, three or four times each week. On the second visit to one feed patch near New Gretna, Burlington County, New Jersey, he saw five Woodcocks, along with a covey of Bob-whites, eating the cracked corn. These were observed eating the corn at the feeding station at each subsequent visit for fully a month. Other observers reported the same habit.—CLARENCE COTTAM, *U. S. Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

Unusual Bird Behavior.—Each new season brings new experiences with birds. This season (1933) I have had a new experience with the Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa satrapa*). On April 22, 1933, while walking through a small grove in Washington Park, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, I observed a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius varius*) busily engaged in drilling holes in the trunk of a white birch tree. At my approach, it flew to a white pine a short distance away. On the birch just vacated by the sapsucker, I noticed a Golden-crowned Kinglet feeding among the branches. I had barely made sure of its identity, when it did a peculiar thing. Bracing itself on the trunk of the tree in the same manner as the sapsucker, it proceeded to drink the sap that was oozing from the holes drilled in the tree. After drinking three or four times it flew farther into the grove. This being an interesting and unusual incident in my experience with birds, I decided to verify my observation. I had just placed myself in a better position, when another Golden-crowned Kinglet flew into the tree to a series of holes drilled beside a healing branch scar, and proceeded immediately to drink. Near by were two other birches whose trunks and larger branches were full of sapsucker wells. While watching these trees, at least ten other kinglets drank at these artesian wells, and in every instance the birds flew directly to the holes and proceeded to drink. I was then convinced that this unusual incident was not just one particular individual's habit, but apparently was a common practice among this troop of migrating kinglets. Although sap was flowing from all the pines and hemlocks in the vicinity, no kinglets were observed at them. No doubt they prefer the sap of the birches. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were not among this flock, although many species of warblers were present, but none were observed drinking sap.—JOSEPH N. WOPPERT, *Milwaukee, Wis.*

Shufeldt's Junco Taken in Northwestern Iowa.—An adult male Shufeldt's Junco (*Junco oreganus shufeldti*) was collected by the writer on April 10, 1934, southwest of Ruthven, in the northwest corner of Section 27 of Freeman Township, Clay County, Iowa. This bird was found among some willows which border the outlet from Rosacker Slough. It was associated with Tree and Song Sparrows, no other juncos being present. It immediately was recognized as one of the "black-headed" juncos.